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tition difficult. Exports of canned vegetables and fruit products without sugar, as for example dried fruits (apricots), pulp and tomato juice just now seem to offer greater possibilities, but foreign quality competition is still severe.

*Cement*

There are two cement factories in Syria, one near Damascus and one in Aleppo. Their combined capacity in 1953 was 243,000 metric tons. Planned expansions are expected to result in an increase to 403,000 tons by 1955. The two companies have about 500 factory employees, working on a continuous three-shift basis and there are about 300 additional workers in the quarries.

There are ample supplies of limestone in close proximity to each factory. The other constituent materials are readily available and are usually brought in as return loads. Refractory bricks are imported. The rotary kilns are oil fired, about 150 kg. of fuel oil being used for each metric ton of cement produced. The transport costs of fuel oil are heavy, varying from £S 10 to over £S 20 per ton.

Syrian cement now costs about £S 80 per ton ex factory, including the tax (for domestic use) of £S 15 per ton, against prices of from £S 50 to £S 70 per ton for European and Lebanese cement c.i.f. Beirut.

*Glass*

Glassmaking is one of Syria's traditional industries. Until the end of the last war, broken glass constituted its raw material and primitive hand methods were used, but production is now concentrated mainly in one large factory on the outskirts of Damascus. There are also 12 small enterprises, several of them in the Damascus area, engaged in the production of bottles, glass containers, lamp glasses, etc. Machines are used in certain processes, but production is still largely in the hands of glass blowers.

The output of the large Damascus factory, considered to be the most modern factory of its kind in the Middle East, averaged almost 4,000 tons annually during 1950-53. Sand has to be imported from Lebanon, as the local sand is unsuitable; soda ash and silica are imported from Europe and fuel oil from Lebanon. The company sells its standard window glass in

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Syria at about £S 2.85 per square meter. Most of its production is sold locally and there has recently been a marked increase in demand from its export markets in Lebanon and Jordan where Syrian glass is admitted duty free. Since 1952 the importation of sheet glass, many containers and other glass articles has been prohibited.

*Tanning and Leather Dressing*

The development of the tanning and leather dressing industry from the handicraft to the mechanically-aided stage began about 1929 and has made good progress, particularly since the dissolution of the Customs Union with Lebanon.

The supply of Syrian sheep and goat skins is more than sufficient to meet local demand, but raw cow and buffalo hides were imported to the extent of over 2,000 tons in 1951 and over 2,500 tons in 1953 to supplement the supply of local hides. About 800 tons of untreated hides and skins were exported in 1951 and 600 in 1953, and about 430 tons and 330 tons of processed leather and leather goods in 1951 and 1953 respectively. According to the most recent official figures (end of 1953) the tanneries which the government classes as factories numbered 75, mostly in the Aleppo and Damascus areas. The annual output amounted to 2,700 tons of sole hide and 4.9 million square feet of other leather. The number of workers employed was given as 2,700.

Elsewhere we have mentioned the successful establishment of an industrial zone for tanneries on the outskirts of Damascus. This has provided an opportunity for the introduction of additional modern machinery and a great improvement in working conditions at the new location. The new tanneries vary considerably in size, the number of workers ranging from five or six to about 100.

*Boots and Shoes*

Leather boots and shoes with leather or rubber soles are made by hand or on simple machines in small workshops in most parts of the country, or by the retailer on his own premises. There are no reliable figures of the number of workers or volume of production.

During the last few years four factories have been established near

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An increase of about 60% in cotton production is expected by 1960, but present power capacity appears adequate to meet this expansion.

*Glass*

The Damascus glass factory owns a 600-KW power plant. The total productive capacity of the factory is about 43 tons of glass per day; in 1953 about 3,000 tons of glass were actually produced, representing about 70 days output at full capacity. If a consumption of about 100 KWH per ton of glass is assumed then the generated power in 1953 would have been about 0.3 million KWH.

*Cold Storage*

A cold storage plant in Damascus has a 500-KW power plant interconnected with the public utilities network. It can be assumed that about half of the approximately 2 million KWH required annually is supplied by the public utilities and half by the factory's plant.

*Oil Mills*

Two Aleppo oil mills have private power plants, the larger with a capacity of 1,200 KW, the smaller with 300 KW. These factories work only about 150 days per year (say six days per week during six months). With one-third of the capacity in reserve and an assumed load factor as low as 10% the power generated per year would be about 1.5 million KWH.

*Flour Mill*

A flour mill in Aleppo has a 400-KW plant. With a utilization of two-thirds of the capacity for 6,000 hours the power generated would be about 1.2 million KWH.

*Sugar*

In 1953 the Homs sugar factory processed 7,000 tons of sugar from beets and refined 22,000 tons from raw sugar. Power required for the former

433 The building industry expanded considerably during the post-war period. Authorized floor space in new buildings in Damascus increased from 56,000 square 339 metres in 1945, to 209,000 in 1950 and 265,000 in 1953. Output of cement rose 323 correspondingly, from 35,000 tons in 1945 to 68,000 in 1950, 224,000 in 1953 and 114,000 tons during the first half of 1954. This fully meets local demand. A glass factory, with a capacity of 10,000 tons, established in the post-war period, reached a maximum production of 5,500 tons in 1954; it exports small amounts to neighbouring countries.

377 Output of electricity showed little increase during the war, but after the 471 war demand rose rapidly. The inability of the foreign concessionary companies 433 operating in Damascus and Aleppo to expand capacity sufficiently fast led the Government, in 1951, to nationalize them, for compensation, and to instal additional equipment; 1/ in 1954, the Homs-Baas electricity company was also nationalized. Output by public utilities has risen considerably in recent years, from 47 million kilowatt-hours in 1947 to 81 million in 1950, 114 million in 1953 and 80 million in the first eight months of 1954; output by industrial power plants is probably over 40 million kilowatt-hours per annum.

433 Other important industries include tanning, and the making of matches, cardboard, soap, nails, pins and plastics.

433 Government assistance to industry has taken four main forms: tariff 656 protection, tax exemption, financial aid and regulation of standards and prices. In the early post-war years foreign competition weighed heavily on the Syrian market. The ending of the customs union with Lebanon in 1950 (see below) led to a decrease in competition in some industries, notably spinning; but other industries, such as weaving and canning, which marketed a substantial proportion of their output in Lebanon, suffered. In recent years, protection has been greatly increased by the raising of customs duties on competing goods 2/ or by prohibiting the importing of such goods: among the prohibited articles were matches, soap, shoes, socks and stockings, glass products, canned fruits and vegetables, wooden furniture and alcoholic drinks. These measures seem to have greatly decreased foreign competition; nevertheless, in recent years, prices of local manufactures have tended to decline. 3/

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1/ Between the autumn of 1951 and the end of 1953, a total capacity of 6,450 kilowatts was installed in Damascus (Al Manar, special issue on Syrian industry, Damascus 1954); a total of £S 9.5 million was advanced by the Government to the nationalized firms for expansion and improvements. At the end of 1953, the total capacity of public utilities was 34,000 kilowatts and that of industrial power plants was over 20,000 kilowatts. Two plants with a capacity of 17,000 kilowatts were scheduled for completion at the end of 1954.

2/ For example, in 1952, duties on several types of woollen and cotton goods were raised by 25 to 50 per cent.

3/ The index of wholesale prices of domestic industrial products rose from 93 in 1950 (1949 = 100) to 111 in 1951, but declined to 103 in 1952, 88 in 1953 and 79 in the first nine months of 1954.